

John Thayer lands job with College Fanz Sports Network

Written by April Peregoy

A huge door of opportunity has opened for KSTH Star 92.3's John Thayer, and he has chosen to walk through it while he still can.

Unfortunately for Holyoke and Haxtun fans, who have relied on his voice to bring them instant news and local high school sports coverage over the past year, this means the young broadcaster will be leaving his position at the local radio station as its manager and sports director.

But not to worry. They can still tune in online to hear Thayer, who will now be broadcasting for the College Fanz Sports Network.

College Fanz is an online college sports community for students, alumni and fans of college sports. It is the latest innovation from ESPN founder Bill Rasmussen and a team of experienced sports and business professionals.

The network is comprised of over 22,000 web pages devoted to more than 1,450 colleges and universities throughout the United States competing in over 225,000 NCAA and NAIA athletic events.

Though he'll be based out of Grand Island, Neb., Thayer will be traveling all over the country for College Fanz to cover its pick for "Game of the Week."

"I'm really excited for it and humbled at the same time," said Thayer about his new position. "This opportunity could mean a lot for further career advancement."

Thayer began his broadcasting career while studying journalism at Doane College in Crete, Neb., covering all of the college's sports teams. In the spring of 2006, he found out the Victory Sports Network was looking for interns for the following school year. He contacted founder Jason Dannelly, who hired him to be the 2007-08 NAIA Division II women's basketball columnist.

His job entailed gathering a compilation of the nation's top 25 women's basketball college teams. He also went through all of the games each week and picked out a list of the top 10, then wrote articles on why they were the biggest games of the week.

In November, 2008, Victory Sports Network was acquired by College Fanz, and Dannelly took a position with the company. Recently, the network has been looking to expand its coverage, which includes the additional feature of broadcasting games online. Dannelly contacted Thayer to see if he would be interested in joining the new broadcasting team.

"It was a tough decision because I never wanted to stay in one place for just a year, but it came down to career advancement," he said. "If you don't take those kind of opportunities, eventually doors will stop opening for you."

So he attended an interview with Rasmussen and was offered the job. Since then, things have been moving very quickly for Thayer, who will start his new job June 1—nearly one year to the day after he started at Star 92.3.

He noted he is thankful to Brian Loker and High Plains Radio for giving him his first job out of college at KSTH. "I have enjoyed my time here," he said. "It's been a lot of fun and I appreciate everyone making me feel welcome and helping me out—especially the help from the athletic directors and coaches."

He added, "It's been a great pleasure to work around such a hard-working compilation of kids. I was only covering two high schools, but I got to make trips to the state football playoffs, district volleyball, state basketball and state baseball. It's just been fun."